

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic mail transfer device which receives an electronic mail sent from a sending terminal through a communication line and sends the received electronic mail to a receiving terminal through the communication line according to an address of a destination party attached to the electronic mail, comprising:

5 a means for separating the electronic mail into text data and the other data when the received electronic mail includes the data other than the text data; and

10 a means for sending only the text data to the receiving terminal after relating the separated text data with the data other than the text data.

2. An electronic mail transfer device as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:

a means for storing the separated data other than the text data with a discriminating symbol attached there; and

5 a means for inserting the discriminating symbol into the text data,

the text data with the discriminating symbol inserted therein being sent by said sending means to the receiving terminal through the communication line.

100-93400-100

3. An electronic mail transfer device as set forth in Claim 2, wherein

the data other than the text data related with the text data and stored in said storing means is sent to the receiving terminal or deleted, at a request of the receiving terminal.

4. An electronic mail transfer device as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising:

a means for assigning a temporary tag for the number of the separated data other than the text data, to the separated text data,

said inserting means replacing the tag with the corresponding discriminating symbol.

5. An electronic mail transfer device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the communication line is the Internet.

6. An electronic mail transfer device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the data other than the text data is an attached file.

7. An electronic mail transfer device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein

the data other than the text data is graphic data

or a computer executable program.

5

8. An electronic mail transfer system provided with an electronic mail transfer device of receiving an electronic mail sent from a sending terminal through a communication line and sending the received electronic mail to a receiving terminal through the communication line according to an address of a destination party attached to the electronic mail, a plurality of the sending terminals for sending the electronic mail to the electronic mail transfer device through the communication line, and a plurality of the receiving terminals for receiving the electronic mail sent from the electronic mail transfer device through the communication line, in which

the electronic mail transfer device comprises:
15 a means for separating the electronic mail into text data and the other data when the received electronic mail includes the data other than the text data; and

a means for sending only the text data to the receiving terminal after relating the separated text data with the data other than the text data.

20

9. An electronic mail transfer system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein

the electronic mail transfer device further

09012315 03410
10220 97321350

comprises:

5 a means for storing the separated data other than
the text data with a discriminating symbol attached
there; and

a means for inserting the discriminating symbol
into the text data,

10 the text data with the discriminating symbol
inserted therein being sent by said sending means to the
receiving terminal through the communication line.

10. An electronic mail transfer system as set forth in Claim 9, wherein

the electronic mail transfer device
sends the data other than the text data related
5 with the text data and stored in said storing means to
the receiving terminal or deletes the same data, at a
request of the receiving terminal.

11. An electronic mail transfer system as set forth in Claim 9, wherein

the electronic mail transfer device further comprises:

5 a means for assigning a temporary tag for the
number of the separated data other than the text data,
to the separated text data,

said inserting means replacing the tag with the corresponding discriminating symbol.

10

12. An electronic mail transfer system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein

the communication line is the Internet.

13. An electronic mail transfer system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein

the data other than the text data is an attached file.

5

14. An electronic mail transfer system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein

the data other than the text data is graphic data or a computer executable program.

5

15. An electronic mail transfer method for receiving an electronic mail sent from a sending terminal through a communication line and sending the received electronic mail to a receiving terminal through the communication line according to an address of a destination party attached to the electronic mail, comprising the steps of:

5

a step of separating the electronic mail into text data and the other data when the received electronic mail includes the data other than the text data; and

10

a step of sending only the text data to the

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

receiving terminal after relating the separated text data with the data other than the text data.

15

16. An electronic mail transfer method as set forth in Claim 15, further comprising:

a step of storing the separated data other than the text data with a discriminating symbol attached there;

5

a step of inserting the discriminating symbol into the text data; and

a step of sending the text data with the discriminating symbol inserted therein to the receiving terminal through the communication line.

10

17. An electronic mail transfer method as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising:

a step of sending the data other than the text data related with the text data and stored in said storing means to the receiving terminal or deleting the same data, at a request of the receiving terminal.

5

18. An electronic mail transfer method as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising:

a step of assigning a temporary tag for the number of the separated data other than the text data, to the text data, at a time of separation; and

5

a step of replacing the tag with the

FOI b6 b7C b7D

corresponding discriminating symbol at a time of sending.

0012345 02404
0012345 02404